

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

CORRECTIONS PROGRAMS

Prison Pre-Release Planning Program



The Florida Department of Health (DOH), HIV/AIDS Section, Prevention Program leads in the provision of prevention, testing and linkage services within the correctional system. DOH funds two programs for inmates preparing to return to their communities: the Jail Linkage Program and the Prison Pre-Release Planning Program. Another program provides prison-based peer education training. Total funding for the corrections programs is approximately \$1.6 million.

Section 945.355, Florida Statutes, requires HIV testing for inmates prior to their release from prison. Inmates who test positive for HIV work with a pre-release program planner who offers linkages to community services as the inmate transitions out of custody.

Inmates returning to Broward, Miami-Dade and Orange counties receive more intensive linkage services and support to connect to medical care upon their release. Community linkage coordinators (CLC) work with pre-release planners to ensure these inmates are connected to needed services.

PRE-RELEASE PLANNERS

- Five planners statewide
- Work in prison setting with inmates preparing for release from custody
- Coordinate inmate linkage to local providers/services
- Provide inmates with copies of their medical records
- Coordinate to ensure inmates receive 30-day supply of medications

CLC

- One CLC in Broward and Miami-Dade counties, one in Orange County
- Meet with clients within one week of their return to the community
- Arrange appointments for medical care, social and eligibility services
- Assist clients with transportation by providing bus passes
- Provide follow-up services for up to six months following client's release from prison